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Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the least developed countries

Views on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Submissions from Parties

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 1 February 2015, their views on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its forty-second session.[1]

2. The secretariat has received three such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.[2]

[1] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 9(b).

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

[2] Also available at <http://unfccc.int/5900>.

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* This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, and Serbia.

Paper no. 1: Angola on behalf of the least developed countries

SUBMISSION BY ANGOLA
ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Views on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 9(b))

I. Introduction

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) recall the decision by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to review, at its twenty-first session, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and to adopt a decision thereon (Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 8). The group further recalls the decision by the COP on the actions and steps necessary for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to initiate the review in June 2015, including the invitation to Parties to submit views on the work of the LEG, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document for consideration by SBI 42.

The LDCs therefore take this opportunity to provide views on the mandate of the LEG from 2016 onwards. This submission builds on previous communication by the Group on the work of the LEG, including the submission made in 2010.

II. Background

LDCs welcome with great appreciation the substantial support provided by the LEG to the LDCs on the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), the LDC work programme and the national adaptation plan (NAP) process. These are the most critical measures established under the Convention that would help LDCs to fight the adverse effects of climate by reducing vulnerability of the poorest communities/societies and systems.

Through the support provided by the LEG, LDCs have achieved huge milestones, the primary of which are:

- All LDCs have prepared NAPAs that contain urgent and immediate priorities to reduce vulnerability to climate change. Through their work on NAPAs, LDCs have become the pioneers of raising the awareness of climate change to high political levels, as a way to ensure appropriate support and actions.
- LDCs are continuously gaining experiences and lessons through the implementation of NAPAs.
- This incremental gain has been instrumental and translated into a valuable stepping-stone into the anticipated success of the NAPs process.
- Many LDCs have started to formulate their NAPs to ensure robust arrangements and plans are put in place timely, for accessing resources from the Green Climate Fund for programmes and measures that would substantially reduce vulnerability to climate change in the LDCs.

The LDCs particularly found useful the support that the LEG provided through the regional training workshops on NAPAs and NAPs, the NAP EXPO, the publications on Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Preparing and Implementing NAPAs, etc. This type of support provided by the LEG has been useful in increasing the understanding and capacity in LDCs in preparing and implementing the NAPAs as part of the LDC Work Program and also for initiating NAPs for some of the LDCs.

III. Elements of the new mandate of the LEG

The LDCs have benefited a great deal from the support and guidance of the LEG over the years. The LEG is a fundamental component of the architecture of the Convention and how LDCs are supported. The continuation of the LEG is equally important to the success of the Convention, and it is our strong desire to ensure a smooth continuation of

its work. At the present juncture, all the elements of the LDC Work Program has not been completed and many LDCs are still in the phase of implementing their NAPAs. The LDCs are also now about to embark on the NAP process which will be much more complex and long term process. Based on the progress and lessons from the support received through the LEG and the remaining support required by LDCs the new mandate of the LEG should cover, *inter alia*, the following areas:

a) Identify capacity gaps and needs for the LDCs in undertaking/implementing the NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme, and address them accordingly.
b) Technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs as mandated through decision 5/CP.17 and other subsequent decisions.
c) Enhanced capacity-building of LDC Parties to fully implement NAPAs through the provision of guidance, training workshops, and other technical support designed to improve, among other things, Parties' access to the Least Developed Countries Fund and other sources of funding, including through Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund.
d) Technical support and guidance to the LDCs for the implementation of NAPAs, including mobilization of partnerships with relevant entities to ensure the full implementation of the all the priorities identified in the countries' NAPAs.
e) Development of standard methodologies on various aspects related to reducing vulnerability to climate change in LDCs.
f) Technical support to the LDCs to effectively participate in the compilation and communication of INDCs.
g) Support monitoring and evaluation of the processes established to support LDCs through the collection of data and experiences from the LDCs.
h) Building the capacity of national institutions and focal points to enable the effective implementation and monitoring of national adaptation plans and programmes in the LDCs.
i) Support LDCs in access to adaptation technologies.
j) Capture and communicate experiences, best practices and lessons learned regarding the work of the LDCs in implementing NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme.
k) Promotion of South-South partnerships in supporting the LDCs.
l) Instigating linkages and partnerships with relevant organizations, regional centres and networks that provide specific support to the LDCs.
m) Advise on revision of the LDC work programme and the scope of capacity-building for LDCs and other vulnerable countries.
n) Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, and information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme.

The mandate should be flexible enough to allow inclusion of new areas of support that may come from the new global climate change agreement to be adopted at the COP 21.

The areas above are not exhaustive and LDCs would be glad to receive additional inputs from other stakeholders who may have experience in adaptation.

IV. Modalities

The LDCs can be supported by the LEG through the following modalities:

- Technical guidelines including standard methodologies / frameworks for projects to reduce vulnerability in the LDCs.
- Case studies and surveys.

- Engaging relevant expertise, such as on sectors (agriculture, water, health, etc.), monitoring and evaluation, development, gender, etc…
- Regional training workshops.
- Technical/expert meetings.
- Setting up of advisory groups.
- Regional groups to work with regional centres in supporting the LDCs.
- Compilation, synthesis and dissemination of relevant information, data, methods and tools.
- Linkage with other bodies under the Convention.
- Engagement to a wide range of organizations.

V. Length of mandate of the LEG

In line with existing financial architecture, intensified implementation of the NAPs will commence in 2020 when the GCF achieves the vision of USD 100 billion per year. It will therefore be critically important that at this time LDCs continue to receive uninterrupted support through the implementation of projects, programmes and policies coming out of the NAPs.

LDCs therefore see the need for a forward looking extension of the mandate of the LEG that would allow enough time to gain lessons from the implementation of adaptation with funding from the Green Climate Fund. Such extension could therefore look at the term of the LEG that would extend well beyond 2020.

VI. Membership

The LEG is composed of 10 members from LDC Parties and 3 members from Annex II Parties. However, over the years the Convention took important agreements to enhance the support to LDCs on addressing adaptation – including on the NAP process, for example. Furthermore, following decision 8/CP.13 and others, the LEG has consistently been engaging the Global Environment Facility and its agencies, as well as a wide range of organizations.

LDCs therefore believe it is worth exploring how the evolution of the adaptation architecture can effectively be implemented through a review of the composition of the group, and also how the engagement of various organizations could further be strengthened.

VII. Conclusion

The LDC Group believes that its views will guide the decision on work of the LEG from 2016 onwards, and is willing to continue to contribute in constructive dialogue towards the implementation of Article 4.9 of the Convention.

The Group also welcomes the timely organization of the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, and invites all stakeholders that will attend the meeting to assist the LDCs in coming up with the elements of a future mandate of the LEG.

Paper no. 2: Latvia and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States

SUBMISSION BY LATVIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS 28 MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia.

Riga, 4 February 2015

Subject: Matters relating to the least developed countries (LDC); Views from Parties on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

The EU and its Member States welcome the opportunity to provide views on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) as invited by the decision 6/CP.16 to give input for the review of the progress, the need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG.

The EU appreciates the dedication of the LEG members, in particular their valuable work done during this mandate period including the preparation of the NAP Technical Guidelines, the workshops organized and the support for the LDCs on the national adaptation plan (NAP) process, the enhanced cooperation with bodies in and outside the Convention, as well as the support provided by the Secretariat to this purpose. The EU considers the LEG as an important group providing a dedicated space for addressing specific challenges of the LDCs in the context of adaptation to the impacts of climate change. This is why the EU has been providing financial contributions to support the work of the LEG. Furthermore, the EU has actively participated as members of the LEG, currently two of the three Annex II members are from the EU.

While the initial mandate of the LEG focused on advising the preparation and implementation of the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs; 29/CP.7) its mandate has evolved over the years, now also addressing medium and long-term adaptation issues and their integration into development planning and implementation, as well as gender considerations. Until today 50 NAPAs have been developed and in many countries these are now evolving into a longer term vision for adaptation as an integral part of the overall development planning and implementation process. Furthermore, with the decision on the Cancun Adaptation Framework additional bodies dealing with adaptation to the impacts of climate change have been established, e.g. the Adaptation Committee (AC). The agenda of the Climate Technology Centre and Network also deals with support for adaptation technology.

Thus far the LEG has fulfilled the expectations in providing targeted support for the LDCs. It has worked well and in a pragmatic manner. While the LEG has been created for the LDCs also some other developing country parties have been able to use the outputs of and attended workshops organized by the LEG. The EU understands the special challenges and capacity limitations of the LDCs and therefore supports the role of the LEG in providing targeted support to the LDCs as well as the importance of building South-South collaboration between the LDCs and other developing countries.

Noting the evolution of institutional arrangements since the establishment of the LEG, including the last extension of the mandate, the EU is willing to learn and discuss with other Parties about the views on the future mandate of the LEG. The discussion should take into account inter alia following questions: Is there any duplication of work between the LEG and the AC? How could cooperation and coordination with other UNFCCC bodies be enhanced? What are the specific needs of the LDCs which should be covered specifically by the LEG? What would be the appropriate time frame for a mandate? Would it e.g. make sense to agree on a shorter mandate period with a similar review as envisaged for this year to ensure that the role of the LEG meets the needs of the new agreement? Particularly the EU believes that the review as per the decision 6/CP.16 should focus on the added value and effectiveness of the LEG in supporting LDCs in building their capacity to address the impacts of climate change.

The EU supports a discussion on an extension of the mandate of the LEG under the terms of reference adopted by decision 29/CP.7. However, the EU would like to call for caution in order not to overburden the limited capacity of the

LEG with additional tasks while at the same time the EU sees a need for enhanced coordination and cooperation both within the Convention – especially between the LEG, the AC and the CTCN - and organizations working on adaptation issues outside the Convention. Furthermore, the EU believes that more work is needed to enhance and support the mainstreaming of adaptation issues into general development planning and implementation in order to achieve sustainable results. The EU also believes that there is a need to continue promoting gender-related considerations and gender-sensitive approaches as a way to enhance participation and effectiveness of adaptation efforts.

The EU looks forward to submissions from other Parties as well as to the discussions later this year in order to find the best way to support the LDCs in their adaptation efforts.

Paper no. 3: Nepal

Submission by Nepal
Views on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group
[Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 9(b)]

I. Background

Regarding the decision of the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its 16th session to review, at its twenty-first session, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), Nepal takes this opportunity to provide views on the mandate of the LEG from 2016 onwards. Nepal considers that Parties to the UNFCCC made package of decisions, including the establishment of the LEG, in 2001 to support LDCs as part of the implementation of the Article 4.9 of the Convention.

Nepal welcomes the significant support provided by the LEG in internalising and localising climate change adaptation (CCA) at the country level through the preparation of the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and in developing resource materials for the process to formulate and implement the national adaptation plan (NAP) in the recent years. Nepal considers NAPAs and NAPs as the most important instruments in integrating CCA into local to national planning processes to help to adapt to, and build resilience to climate change impacts by reducing vulnerability of the poorest communities and ecosystems.

During the last 14 years, LEG has produced a number of resource materials to encourage and facilitate countries like Nepal in addressing climate vulnerabilities and impacts. The NAPA preparation guidelines prepared by the LEG has not only contributed to the preparation of the NAPA but also raised awareness and built capacity in selecting and prioritising most urgent and immediate CCA activities. Experiences and lesson learned during NAPA preparation and implementation has encouraged Nepal to initiate the NAP formulation process. Nepal's experience in localising CCA activities in a process to implement NAPA priorities through the government endorsed National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) provides additional impetus for the NAP process.

Nepal also recognises and appreciates the funds available from, in particular, bilateral and multilateral support and from LDC Fund and Climate Investment Fund in its efforts to implement NAPA priorities and climate resilience programmes. However, Nepal considers important to replenish LDC Fund to the earliest possible to support the LDCs in assisting to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Nepal also considers it important that the Green Climate Fund should make necessary arrangements to support the climate vulnerable countries like Nepal in accessing resources in a simple, easy and fast-tracked manner to reduce vulnerability to climate change and facilitate integration of climate change adaptation into existing and new sectoral policies, plans and strategies in Nepal.

Nepal appreciates the LEG for preparing the NAP Technical Guidelines, and organising regional training and workshops on the NAP process to develop a 'critical mass' of knowledge-based human resources at the country-level. Recent approach of inviting LDCs and non-LDCs developing countries in such regional training and workshop is expected to greatly promote sharing of experiences and knowledge and promote south-south cooperation. Furthermore, LEG's publications on best practices and lesson learned, and establishment of NAP Central as an universal platform for knowledge sharing, and launching of NAP Expo have provided additional opportunities in sharing experiences and lessons learned. These activities have significantly contributed to selecting, prioritising and implementing 'people-centred and gender-sensitive' CCA actions at the field level to address the climate threats faced by the poor and marginalised people. In addition, various technical papers of the LEG have equally enhanced understanding in implementing CCA and other programmes.

II. Elements of the new mandate of the LEG

Although Nepal embarked late in the NAPA and UNFCCC implementation processes, it has benefited significantly from the support and guidance of the LEG over a decade. Nepal considers that LEG is a fundamental and most important professional body under the Convention to support the LDCs, and hence, its continuation with broader and additional mandates is of paramount importance to continue to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs. Experiences and knowledge generated and documented needs further refinement to support the urgent to long-term needs of the LDCs. Nepal considers that LEG should also be mandated to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs in line with new provisions that might be included in the proposed 2015 agreement on climate change. Taking into consideration the existing mandates of the LEG, Nepal considers that new mandate of the LEG should cover the following:

a) Continuation of the existing mandates in undertaking and providing, in particular, the technical guidance and support on NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme;

b) Continuation of promoting LEG as the source of knowledge, expertise and technical hand to support LDCs on climate change regime;

c) Providing technical support and guidance to implement most urgent and immediate to medium- and long-term adaptation needs, including accessing funding;

d) Development of standard methodologies and procedures on various aspects of the NAPs related to reducing vulnerability to climate change and assisting to integrate CCA into local to national planning processes, including monitoring and evaluation processes and implementation of recommendations of technology need assessment (TNA) report;

e) Development of human resources with enhanced understanding to effectively participate in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);

f) Documentation and communication of experiences, best practices and lessons learned on climate change adaptation and other climate activities;

g) Enhancing communication channels for demand-based support;

h) Promoting collaboration with UNFCCC bodies, relevant regional institutions and financial entities such as LDCF and GCF in building capacity on accessing technical and financial supports;

i) Identification and formulation of technical needs activities for adaptation, including on climate data analysis and policy formulation for data generation, storage and sharing; and

j) Promoting regional approaches, partnership and synergy to achieve coherence and promote partnerships in fully achieving the national goals of the NAPs.

III. Modalities

The LEG should continue to follow the existing modalities such as preparing, updating and disseminating technical guidelines, conducting case studies and surveys, engaging relevant experts, and organising regional training workshops and expert meetings. In addition, LEG should compile, synthesise and disseminate relevant information and establish functional linkage with Convention bodies and other organisations and programmes such as Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), including for each region, to maximize south-south cooperation.

IV. Membership of the LEG

In view of the increasing role of the LEG in supporting developing countries on CCA and taking into consideration the existing 13-member LEG, Nepal considers to enhance the mandate and increase the number of LEG members from other bodies and organisations to enable the LEG to fully support the LDCs and developing countries requesting support on NAPs in reducing climate change vulnerability and supporting integration of climate change activities into policies, strategies, plans and planning processes.

Nepal recognises the roles and contributions of the LEG and acknowledges its support. Nepal considers LEG as a vehicle to provide technical guidance and support to LDCs in promoting implementation of climate change adaptation, building capacity to access financial resources, also building resilience to climate change impacts and use of technologies, including implementation of other climate change activities.